Finance and Grant by the Government of Gujarat. The process of sanction of project has been initiated.

Pre-Budget meeting of MPs with MoS

3328. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outcome of pre-budget meeting of Tamil Nadu MPs convened by Minister of State on 8th February, 2007 at Chennai;

(b) what is the mechanism of follow up action and time-frame for disposal of issues raised then; and

(c) whether such meeting would follow periodically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Minister of State for Railways had conducted a meeting with Members of Parliament of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on 08.02.2007. The minutes of the meeting has been issued. Necessary follow up action on various points is being taken and replies on the points raised would be given.

(c) Such interactions with Members of Parliament is being done in various forums to know their demands.

Investigations of the Samjhauta Express Explosions

3329. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations of the explosion of two bogies of Samjhauta Express which snuffed out 68 innocent persons in February, 2007 have since been completed;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons, so far, arrested in this case; and

(c) whether compensation to the next of the kins of the victims have since been given and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No arrest has been made in this case till 30.4.2007 and the same is still under investigation with the State Police.

(c) "Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on claim filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal by the victims or by dependents of the deceased passengers. No compensation claim has been filed so far. However, Railways have also announced *ex-gratia* relief of Rs. 10 lakhs to the next of kin of each of the deceased and of Rs. 50,000/-to each of the injured victims. So far, Rs. 131.75 lakhs have been disbursed as *ex-gratia*."

Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority

3330. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of his Ministry to establish a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority to put railway fares on the rational basis, because overcharged freight migrates to road and overcharged passengers to air; and

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Cuisines of international standard in trains

3331. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to offer different cuisines in the running trains and with international standard for cleanliness; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Varied regional cuisines are being